



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

**Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti and Harry A. Watson**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2014**

**6:00 PM**

**Groton Senior Center**

#### **REGULAR MEETING - REVISED**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.*

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.*

#### **3. Calendar and Communications**

*Mayor Schmidt reported that Board of Education Chair Rita Volkmann has asked for a joint meeting with the Council on November 24th or December 15th at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex to discuss the school facilities initiative and the Board of Education budget as well as any other topics of interest. Mayor Schmidt will confirm a date with Ms. Volkmann.*

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

##### **2014-0310 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)**

##### **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting of October 28, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

**A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **2014-0005 Labor Negotiations (2014 Standing Referral)**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that the Town Council Committee of the Whole along with Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Director of Human Resources Bob Zagami, and Town Attorney Eileen Duggan go into executive session at 6:08 p.m. for the purpose of discussing strategy and/or negotiations with respect to current and pending collective bargaining with multiple bargaining units. This action is taken without prejudice to the Council's right to discuss these matters in a private meeting pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-200(2).

**The motion carried unanimously**

**Discussed**

*The executive session concluded at 6:41 p.m.*

##### **2014-0321 Job Description for Shift Operator - WPCF**

**Discussed**

*Town Attorney Eileen Duggan noted that the job description for Shift Operator (WPCF) came out*

*of discussions with the steelworkers' bargaining unit. The job description complies with DEEP guidelines and will not result in the hiring of an additional person as the job will be filled by a current employee.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0258 Grove Avenue Subdivision/Mardie Lane - Update**

**Discussed**

*At the Town Attorney's request, this item was postponed to the November 25th Committee of the Whole meeting.*

**2014-0311 Transit-Oriented Development Grant**

**Discussed**

*Jon Reiner, Director of Planning and Development Services, explained this is a request for authorization to submit a grant application to receive \$250,000 in funding to explore transit-oriented development.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

*It was noted that no matching funds are required for the grant. The funds will be used to study the feasibility of a commuter rail stop in Groton. Town Manager Oefinger noted that it may not be Amtrak services. East Lyme is also applying for the funding, but Groton is not in competition with East Lyme because commuter rail stations are all about convenience. Mr. Reiner added that Amtrak is not interested in stopping at small rail stations. This study will implement a POCD policy goal and may help build infrastructure that would support economic development.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0202 City Highway Budget Committee - Update**

**Discussed**

*Councilor Frink read a brief City Highway Budget Committee report that he stated he would provide to the Town Manager's office. The Town Manager distributed background information that has been gathered during the Committee's meetings. Minutes will be distributed at a future date. Councilor Frink explained that the Committee's efforts will result in a formula to determine highway maintenance funding levels. The Town Manager will have the Town Attorney and Committee members come before the Council to make a presentation. Councilor Frink explained that the Committee is recommending a dollar per mile rate for Town roads that would be applied to the miles of roads in the City.*

*Discussion followed on comparing the Town and City numbers; using the Town's numbers as a basis for the payment to the City; agreement on definitions, boundaries, and tasks involved in maintaining streets; the review of vehicles, equipment, and facilities; and removing CIP work from the highway budget.*

*Mayor Schmidt reiterated that there will be a formal report by the Committee and a presentation. She thanked the Committee for its efforts.*

**2014-0264 Legislative Initiatives - Review of Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**

**Discussed and Recommended no action taken**

*Councilors received the final version of the RFQ in their agenda packets; responses are due on December 8th. The issue of consultant selection still needs to be resolved. Town Manager Oefinger noted this part of the process is normally done by staff. While the Council may want to have representatives on the selection committee, it is not appropriate nor productive to have a large group. A steering group can be established later. Councilors Cerf and Frink volunteered.*

*Jon Reiner, Director of Planning and Development, noted that the zoning component of the study is an audit by an independent consultant to streamline the development process. The market analysis portion of the study will involve a lot of number crunching. Staff members on the selection committee will be Mr. Reiner and possibly the Town Manager or Kristin Clarke, the Town's Economic Development Coordinator.*

**2014-0286 Implementation of Police Study Recommendations**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger is waiting to hear from Tom Wilson from PERF about his ability and the cost to make another presentation to the Council on the police study. The Town Manager provided copies of the original presentation on DVD for interested Councilors. Discussion followed on the purpose of the presentation. Councilor Peruzzotti suggested that the Council must be able to notify outside entities of its expectations for the FYE 2016 budget. She suggested that all Councilors read the PERF study and get on the same page. After additional discussion, the consensus of the Council was to proceed as follows: 1) have Mr. Wilson come in for another presentation and invite the RTM to attend; and 2) Councilors will review the PERF report. The Town Manager asked that questions about the report be forwarded to him at least one week in advance of Mr. Wilson's presentation once it is scheduled.*

**2014-0312 School Facilities Initiative Update**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger noted that Councilor Flax raised a concern that there are concurrent discussions taking place about using the Merritt property for fields and a new middle school. Discussion followed on having a joint meeting of interested parties. The next meeting of the School Facilities Initiative Task Force is November 13th.*

*The Town Manager reported on a meeting that he had with representatives of DEEP. The Merritt property was purchased with Town funds, but then the Town received a state grant reimbursement with restrictions on the use of the land. In order to build a school on the property (the proposal supported by the Board of Education), the state will want the Town to provide comparable open space land in exchange, which is a very complicated process. Staff will develop recommendations for exchange parcels for the Council's review and approval, unless the Town is not interested in the proposal. It was suggested that the Council and Board of Education hold regular joint meetings going forward. Discussion followed on the field proposal and the Town Manager stated that the middle school and fields are not mutually exclusive. He also emphasized that it is time for all of the parties to get on the same page in order to move forward.*

*The consensus of the Council was to hold the joint meeting with the Board of Education (mentioned under Calendar and Communications) on November 24th.*

**2014-0313 Review of Town Services**

**Referred**

*Councilor Frink explained that this referral is based on a bullet in the "Looking Ahead" section of the Town Manager's budget message in the FYE 2015 budget. Councilor Frink provided an overview of the referral, noting it could structurally change the organization and would involve multi-year implementation. Mayor Schmidt transferred the referral to the Finance Committee. Councilor Peruzzotti noted that a major budget roadblock is the Minimum Budget Requirement for the Board of Education. Discussion followed on having Andrea Stillman and state legislators come in for a meeting with the Council.*

**2014-0306 Adoption of 2015 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule**

**A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0307 Adoption of 2015 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule**

A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

**2014-0308 Adoption of 2015 Personnel and Appointments Committee Regular Meeting Schedule**

A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

**2014-0309 Adoption of 2015 Finance Committee Regular Meeting Schedule**

A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

**7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List****Recommended for Deletion:****2013-0154 Consolidation of Police Dispatch**

Recommended for Deletion

**2013-0221 Poquonnock Bridge Fire District/Attorney-Client Privileged Discussion**

Recommended for Deletion

**2013-0233 Police Boat Accident**

Recommended for Deletion

**2013-0299 Establishment of a Charter Revision Commission**

- Not deleted.

**2014-0047 Review of the Town's Planning and Zoning Functions**

Recommended for Deletion

**2014-0064 Accounting of Town Budget by Major Function**

- Not deleted.

**2014-0075 Request for Financial Incentive - LBI, Inc.**

Recommended for Deletion

**2014-0096 Review of Planning and Development Services**

Recommended for Deletion

**2014-0111 Meeting with Police Department Leadership and Officers**

Recommended for Deletion

**2014-0168 Mystic Education Center**

Recommended for Deletion

**2014-0180 Ljubicic Property, River Road - Driveway Alteration**

Recommended for Deletion

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councilor Cerf discussed local Ebola preparation and asked if the Town has started revaluation.*

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.*